



CRITICAL RESEARCH, PATENTS & ALERTS

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March 7, 2011

Senator Gary LeBeau

Commerce Committee Chairman

RE: General Assembly Raised Bill No. 6525 - Letter of Concern

Dear Senator LeBeau,

I am writing in regards to General Assembly Raised Bill No. 6525. In particular the provision: "Sec. 9, (New) (*Effective from passage*)" that appears to move the Connecticut Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Office back to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), has prompted me to write you.

Connecticut's SBIR program and its present affiliation with CI benefits and leverages their shared prominence and positioning as a resource for innovation and entrepreneurship. Moving SBIR to a position of limited technology focus within CCAT would be a mistake and undermines hard won gains in both national recognition and program outreach.

It was just 5 short weeks ago that you presided over a Commerce Committee meeting that showcased much of what has been accomplished in business development and jobs creation via SBIR in Connecticut through the voices of those that matter most – Connecticut's businesses, both large and small advocating on behalf of the program and its many accomplishments. This is a program which has achieved national prominence and one which is clearly assisting economic recovery in Connecticut's hi-tech manufacturing sector by bringing in Federal research dollars. I attended that meeting because of my role a Chair of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation sub-committee of the University of Connecticut School of Engineering Advisory Board. SBIR is a vital link between innovation and commercialization which leads to new job creation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Bouley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Bouley  
President  
Nerac, Inc.